

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as originally filed by replacing the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 21, with the following paragraph:

The linkage **28** is designed such that it occupies a dead center in an intermediate position of the backrest **12** between the positions in use and the fold-flat position. In this dead center, the connecting bar **20** extends perpendicularly to the backrest attachment element **16**, i.e., the extension line of the radially projecting connecting bar **20** intersects the axis of rotation **14**. In this instance, the compensation spring **26** has its smallest bias. From this intermediate position, the compensation spring **26** tensions in both directions to a greater extent, i.e., its cushions both toward the positions in use and the fold-flat position (e.g., arrows in Figures 1 and 3 respectively schematically represent spring forces **FU** and **FF** and respectively resulting torques **TU** and **TF**). Consequently, when the backrest **12** approaches one of these positions, a load on the fitting **7** by the weight of the backrest **12** will be avoided, thereby preventing damage of the fitting **7** during an engagement.